From Darkness to Light: The Story of Kifl

Islamic Stories - Volume 7

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Chapter 1: The Chain of Transmission

Narrated by Abdullah ibn Umar (RA):

Abdullah ibn Umar (RA):

"I heard the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ say:"

Chapter 2: The Man Named Kifl

A Life Immersed in Sin:

Among the Bani Israel, there was a man named Kifl who was deeply involved in immoral deeds, day and night. He was enslaved by his desires and passions. One day, he offered sixty dinars to a needy woman in exchange for committing adultery.

Chapter 3: A Turning Point in Seclusion

When Conscience Awoke:

When they were alone and ready to engage in the sinful act, the woman suddenly began to cry uncontrollably. Kifl, startled and confused, asked:

Kifl:

"Why are you crying? What are you afraid of?"

The Woman's Fear of Divine Punishment:

The pious and noble-hearted woman responded:

Woman:

"I am overwhelmed by the thought of Allah’s (SWT) punishment. Our Creator has declared this act unlawful. Though driven by my need, I agreed to do this evil deed. But now the fear of Allah (SWT) has unsettled me. Alas! A moment’s pleasure today may become an eternal affliction for my soul."

A Plea for Mercy:

She then pleaded:

Woman:

"O Kifl! For the sake of Allah (SWT), refrain from this immorality. Have mercy on both your soul and mine. After all, we shall be accountable to Allah (SWT)."

Chapter 4: Repentance and Remorse

The Impact of Truth:

Her sincere and heartfelt words left a deep impression on Kifl. He became remorseful and ashamed of his sinful intentions. Vivid images of Allah’s (SWT) punishment began to flash before his eyes. Recalling his past transgressions, he broke into tears.

Chapter 5: The Fear of Hell and Sincere Repentance

Scorpions in the Mind's Eye:

Scorpions began to flash before his eyes. He began to reflect inwardly:

"I should fear Allah’s (SWT) punishment even more than this woman. She has not even committed the sin yet, and still she trembles at the thought of Hell. Whereas my entire life has been filled with such wicked deeds."

A Declaration of Repentance:

Then he said:

Kifl:

"O righteous woman! Bear witness that today, before you, I repent with a sincere heart. I will never again commit any act that displeases my Lord. I shall not even entertain the thought of disobeying Allah (SWT). I have given that money too, solely for the sake of Allah (SWT)."

Supplication and Divine Appeal:

After that, he turned to Allah (SWT) in sincere repentance and supplication:

Kifl:

"O my Lord! Forgive my sins. Pardon my past misdeeds. Shelter me within the folds of Your mercy. Save me from the torment of Hell."

Chapter 6: Divine Mercy and Forgiveness

The Writing on the Door:

The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said: That very night, Kifl passed away. The next morning, people saw a message written on his door:

"Indeed, Allah (SWT) has forgiven Kifl."

(إِنَّ اللّٰهَ قَدْ غَفَرَ لِلْكِفْلِ)

Chapter 7: The Power of Fear of Allah (SWT)

The Woman Who Did Not Sin:

Reflect upon the condition of that helpless and desperate woman. She had not even committed the sin, yet she trembled like a weeping willow in the fear of Allah (SWT). Her abstinence from disobedience and her fear of divine punishment stemmed solely from her consciousness of Allah (SWT) and her piety.

Allah (SWT) declares in the Qur'an:

"And whoever fears Allah (SWT) – He will make for him a way out." (Surah At-Talaq)

Chapter 8: The Fruit of Piety

Deliverance through Fear of Allah (SWT):

“And whoever fears Allah (SWT) – He will make for him a way out.” (Surah At-Talaq)

The woman in question wished to avoid sin, and Allah (SWT) not only delivered her from this vile and forbidden act, but also, through her noble character, guided a sinner like Kifl towards repentance. Moreover, the declaration of Kifl’s forgiveness was made manifest through divine means.

The Spirit of Fear of Allah (SWT):

Taqwa (God-consciousness) awakens such emotions and feelings within a person that he no longer dares to disobey Allah (SWT). Indeed, such people are those whose sins Allah (SWT) forgives, and for whom there is glad tidings of a great reward.

Resisting Temptation: The Legacy of the Righteous

These qualities have been preserved in the books of guidance. After embracing Islam, some women again tried to tempt certain individuals into sin, but they refused. One such example is Murshid bin Abi Murshid Ghunawi. Such instances repeatedly occur in Islamic tradition. Islam expects this very type of conduct from every believer.

Prophetic Supplication for Piety:

The prayers of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ also include:

The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ:

“O Allah! I ask You for guidance, piety, chastity, and self-sufficiency.”

(اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَسْأَلُكَ الْهُدَى وَالتُّقَى وَالْعَفَافَ وَالْغِنَى)